THE BEST OF BRITISH COMICS—IT'S

TERRIFIC

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A POWER COMIC

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--HIS ELECTION IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S BIG POLITICAL UPSETS! NO ONE EXPECTED EL TORO TO WIN--

--- THOUGH SANTO RICO HAS LONG BEEN A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THIS CRIMINAL-SUPPORTED CANDIDATE WON BY THE LARGEST VOTE EVER--
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHY DID THEY ELECT A HOOD!!
HENRY PYM! DON'T YOU DARE TURN YOUR BACK ON ME WHEN I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

SORRY, JAN! I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT, I GUESS!
WELL, NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR EAR--

I'LL TURN THIS RIGHT OFF! I HAVE SOME HOLIDAY PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU!
GOOD NIGHT, NEX!
CLICK!

HOLIDAY PLANS?? I TOLD YOU WE HAVEN'T TIME FOR A HOLIDAY!
OKAY THEN, I'LL MAKE TIME! I'LL SMASH A FEW OF YOUR SILLY OL' TEST TUBES...

GIVE ME THOSE, YOU LITTLE IMP! JAN! COME BACK HERE!
SORRY, BIG BOY! WE WASPS CAN BE VERY STUBBORN!

NICE TRY, PESTY-- BUT GIANT-MAN CAN BECOME ANT-MAN JUST AS EASILY!
OH, GO COMB YOUR HAIR WITH FLY-PAPER!

I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT, YOUNG LADY! A RUBBER-BAND IS ALL I'LL NEED TO CATCH YOU--
TWANG
UH OH! SHE JUST TOOK ANOTHER GROWTH CAPSULE!

HI, SHORTY! I OUT-FOXED YOU THIS TIME!
ONLY BECAUSE YOU'VE HAD A GOOD TEACHER, DOLL!

JUST LIKE A MAN TO TRY TO TAKE CREDIT FOR EVERYTHING!

NOW TAKE YOUR GROWTH PILL LIKE A GOOD BOY AND WE'LL HAVE OUR LITTLE TALK!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, LADY!

OHHH! HENRY PYM-- HOW COULD YOU??!
THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE BOSS IN THIS COMBO, JAN BABY!
THEN AFTER TAKING ANOTHER GROWTH PILL...

NOW, I'LL JUST KEEP YOUR SIZE-CAPSULES TILL YOU RETURN MY TEST TUBE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU BIG GROUCH! I DIDN'T WANT THE SILLY THING ANYWAY!

C'MON, GORGEOUS, DON'T SULK! WHAT SAY WE KISS AND MAKE UP?
BITE YOUR TONGUE, MISTER!

I WOULDN'T KISS YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH, YOU BIG BULLY, YOU!!
FOR THE LOVE OF PETE! THE MORE I KNOW ABOUT FEMALES, THE LESS I KNOW ABOUT THEM!

THERE! NOW I'VE GOT HIM SO MIXED-UP THAT THE NEXT TIME I SUGGEST A HOLIDAY HE'LL AGREE BEFORE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
MUST BE JAN, COMING BACK TO MAKE UP!

OH NO!! IT'S ONE OF MY FAN CLUBS!!
HI, HERO MINE! THE WASP CALLED AND TOLD US YOU WERE FREE TODAY, AND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE COMPANY!

SO WE CAME TO INTERVIEW YOU! WE'VE GOT A ZILLION QUESTIONS TO ASK--!!
JAN BABY, HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME??!

ENJOYING YOURSELF, LOVER BOY? I FIGURE THIS MAKES US EVEN!
I'LL SPEAK TO YOU LATER!!
WOULD YOU SHOW US HOW YOU CHANGE SIZE AGAIN, GIANT-MAN??

HOLD IT, KIDS! THERE'S THE PHONE!
MY! LOOK AT THAT REACH!
I SURE WOULDN'T WANNA EAT AT THE SAME BOARDING HOUSE TABLE WITH HIM!
RING-G G!

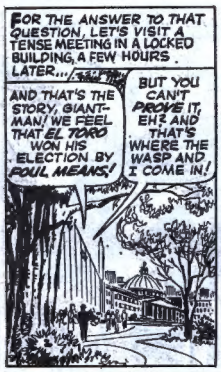
SECONDS LATER...
SORRY, YOUNGSTERS! IT'S AN OFFICIAL CALL—FROM THE GOVERNMENT! YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW!

AND THEN, AFTER THE LAST RELUCTANT FAN HAS LEFT...
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, TELLING A FIB TO GET RID OF YOUR FANS!
IT WASN'T A FIB, GORGEOUS!
GRAB YOUR TOOTHBRUSH! WE'RE OFF TO A CONFERENCE!

BUT WHY, HANK? WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE GET THERE! NOW CLOSE THOSE RUBY LIPS WHILE I CALL MY FLYING ANT!

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE PYM'S DOOR--
GOOD THING WE CHANGED TO ANT-SIZE, OR WE'D NEVER SHAKE OUR FAITHFUL FANS!
WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM HERE, AND THEN FOLLOW HIM! HE MUST BE OFF ON A BIG CASE!

FINALLY, AFTER WAITING ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES...
THE DOOR'S UN-LOCKED!
HECK! THEY GOT AWAY! I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE OFF TO??


FOR THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, LET'S VISIT A TENSE MEETING IN A LOCKED BUILDING, A FEW HOURS LATER...
AND THAT'S THE STORY, GIANT-MAN! WE FEEL THAT EL TORO WON HIS ELECTION BY FOUL MEANS!
BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE IT, EH? AND THAT'S WHERE THE WASP AND I COME IN!

WE WANT YOU TO GO TO SANTO RICO, AS TOURISTS, AND SEE IF YOU CAN UNEARTH ANY EVIDENCE OF A CRIMINAL PLOT! THEN, REPORT BACK TO THE UNITED NATIONS...

AND SO, BEFORE DAY'S END, A SPEEDY JET LANDS IN SANTO RICO WITH TWO "TOURISTS" ABOARD...
I FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER IN AN IAN FLEMING NOVEL!
YOU LOOK LIKE ONE TOO, GORGEOUS! WELL, HERE WE ARE--

EVERYTHING'S CHANGED HERE SINCE THE ELECTION! IT LOOKS LIKE A REAL POLICE STATE!
ARMED TROOPS EVERYWHERE! EL TORO MEANS TO RULE WITH AN IRON HAND!

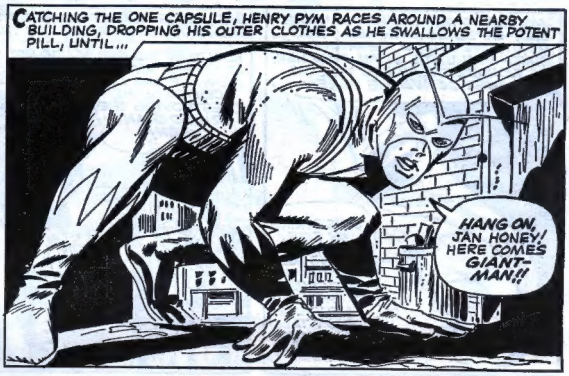
HERE, JAN--YOU HOLD OUR SIZE CAPSULES! IN CASE I'M SEARCHED, I WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO BE FOUND ON ME!
I'LL KEEP THEM IN MY HANDBAG--WITH MY COSMETICS!

BUT, WATCHING EVERY MOVE FROM BEHIND A TWO-WAY MIRROR, A MEMBER OF THE SECRET POLICE MAKES A HURRIED PHONE CALL...
SI, EL TORO! THEY LOOK SUSPICIOUS! THEY MUST BE QUESTIONED!

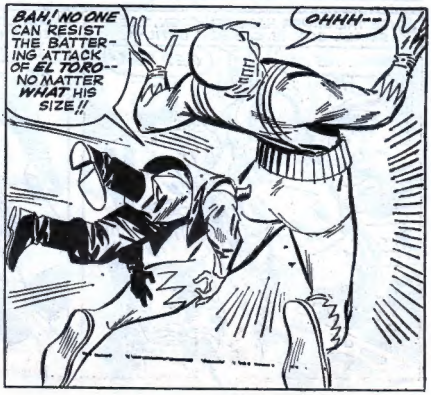
TOURISTS!! HERE?? THEY MUST BE SPIES! SEIZE THEM!

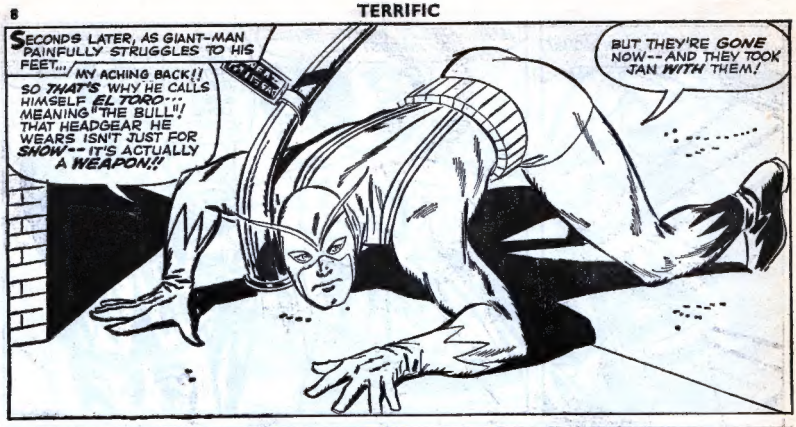
HANK--HELP! THEY'RE TRYING TO ARREST ME!
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF THAT GIRL! SHE'S DONE NOTHING!
WE SHALL TAKE YOU TOO, GRINGO!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!! QUICK, JAN--THE CAPSULES!!
OHH--ONLY TIME TO THROW ONE--GET IT, HANK!

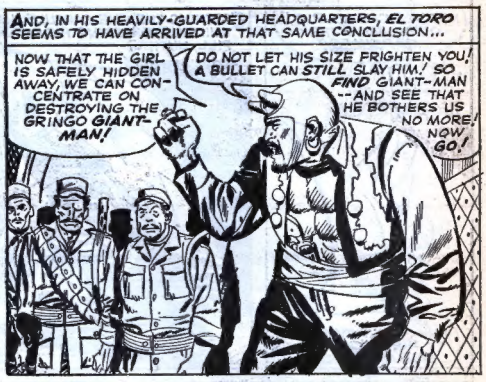

CATCHING THE ONE CAPSULE, HENRY PYM RACES AROUND A NEARBY BUILDING, DROPPING HIS OUTER CLOTHES AS HE SWALLOWS THE POTENT PILL, UNTIL...
HANG ON, JAN HONEY! HERE COMES GIANT-MAN!!

I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT THROUGH THAT BUILDING AND--AH! THERE THEY ARE!
A COSTUMED GIANT!! EL TORO--HELP!
CRASH!

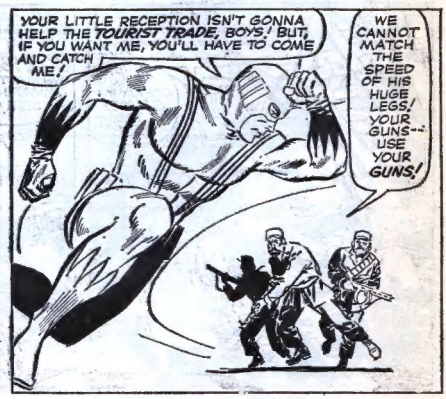

BAH! NO ONE CAN RESIST THE BATTERING ATTACK OF EL TORO--NO MATTER WHAT HIS SIZE!!
OHHH--


SECONDS LATER, AS GIANT-MAN PAINFULLY STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET...
MY ACHING BACK!! SO THAT'S WHY HE CALLS HIMSELF EL TORO... MEANING "THE BULL"! THAT HEADGEAR HE WEARS ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW -- IT'S ACTUALLY A WEAPON!!
BUT THEY'RE GONE NOW -- AND THEY TOOK JAN WITH THEM!

HOLY SMOKE!! JAN HAD ALL THE SIZE-CAPSULES WITH HER! THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO REMAIN AS GIANT-MAN UNTIL I CAN FIND HER! NO WONDER THEY WERE WILLING TO JUST LEAVE ME HERE--
CONSIDERING MY SIZE, THEY CAN FIND ME WHENEVER THEY WANT TO! HOW CAN A TWELVE-FOOT TALL MAN HIDE HIMSELF??


AND, IN HIS HEAVILY-GUARDED HEADQUARTERS, EL TORO SEEMS TO HAVE ARRIVED AT THAT SAME CONCLUSION...
NOW THAT THE GIRL IS SAFELY HIDDEN AWAY, WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON DESTROYING THE GRINGO GIANT-MAN!
DO NOT LET HIS SIZE FRIGHTEN YOU! A BULLET CAN STILL SLAY HIM! SO FIND GIANT-MAN -- AND SEE THAT HE BOTHERS US NO MORE! NOW, GO!

ONCE THE ORDER HAS BEEN GIVEN, THE SMALL CITY IS COMBED UNTIL--
THERE HE IS!
GET HIM!


YOUR LITTLE RECEPTION ISN'T GONNA HELP THE TOURIST TRADE, BOYS! BUT, IF YOU WANT ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME AND CATCH ME!
WE CANNOT MATCH THE SPEED OF HIS HUGE LEGS! YOUR GUNS -- USE YOUR GUNS!

I'LL OUT-DISTANCE THEM EASILY, AND-- UH OH! DIDN'T NOTICE THESE TELEPHONE WIRES!!

-OOOF!- LUCKY THEY HURLED ME BACK!! THERE WERE MORE SOLDIERS WAITING AROUND THE CORNER-- FULLY ARMED!!

SO FAR I'M ONE JUMP AHEAD OF THEM-- BUT HOW LONG CAN I STAY THAT WAY!?

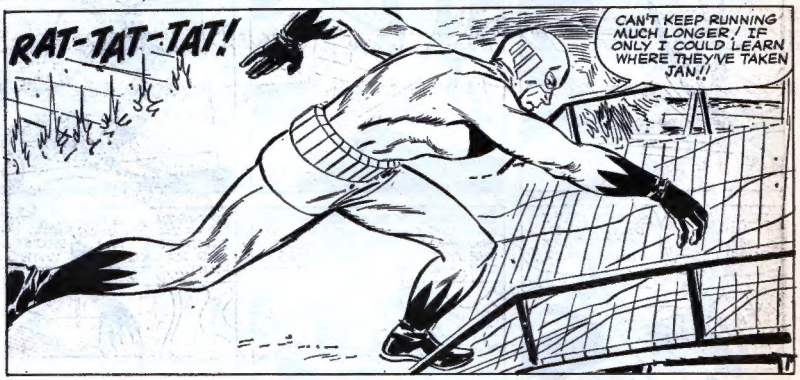
IF ONLY I HAD MY SHRINKING CAPSULES--!!
BLAST IT!! I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT FRUIT STAND!!

TEMPORARILY BLINDED BY THE FALLING CANVAS COVER, GIANT-MAN STUMBLES INTO THE PATH OF AN ONRUSHING CAR, AND...
CARREMBA!!!

BY THE TIME HE HAS SHAKEN OFF THE CANVAS, HE'S COVERED WITH BRUISES AND RACKED WITH PAIN...
THUMP!

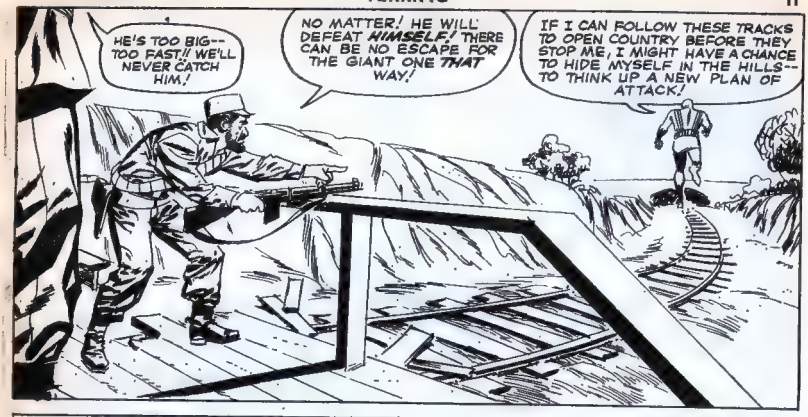
LATER, IN A DARK ALLEY...
WHEW! I NEVER SUSPECTED THAT BEING DOUBLE-SIZE COULD BE SUCH A HANDICAP!! WHAT DO I DO NOW??

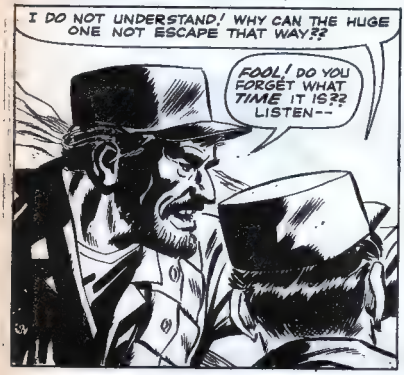
BUT BEFORE THE TRAPPED ADVENTURER CAN REACH A DECISION--
IT'S HIM! THE ONE EL TORO'S MEN ARE SEEKING!
MUCH AS I HATE THE TYRANT EL TORO--IT WOULD MEAN DEATH TO ANY CITIZEN WHO DOES NOT REPORT THE GIANT ONE!
HELP! POLICE! HE IS HERE! I HAVE FOUND HIM!

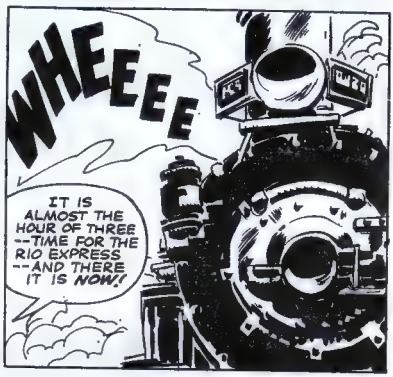

RAT-TAT-TAT!
CAN'T KEEP RUNNING MUCH LONGER! IF ONLY I COULD LEARN WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN JAN!!

NOTHING'S GOING MY WAY! THE BRIDGE ISN'T STURDY ENOUGH TO SUPPORT MY WEIGHT!!
CRASH

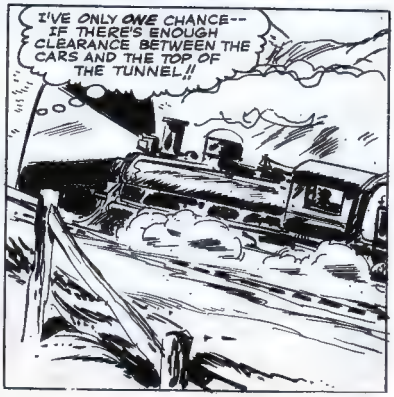
MAYBE IT'S JUST AS WELL! I'LL RUN ALONG THESE TRACKS--AT LEAST THERE'LL BE NO OBSTACLES TO SLOW ME DOWN!
THERE HE GOES! STOP HIM!

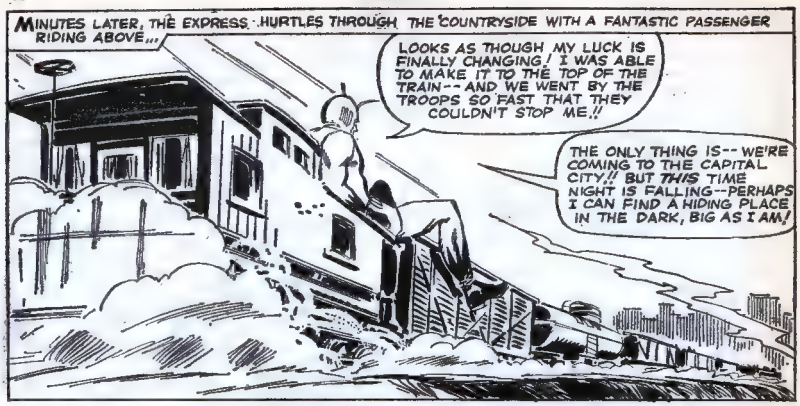

HE'S TOO BIG-- TOO FAST!! WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM!
NO MATTER! HE WILL DEFEAT HIMSELF! THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE FOR THE GIANT ONE THAT WAY!!
IF I CAN FOLLOW THESE TRACKS TO OPEN COUNTRY BEFORE THEY STOP ME, I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO HIDE MYSELF IN THE HILLS-- TO THINK UP A NEW PLAN OF ATTACK!


I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! WHY CAN THE HUGE ONE NOT ESCAPE THAT WAY??
FOOL! DO YOU FORGET WHAT TIME IT IS?? LISTEN--

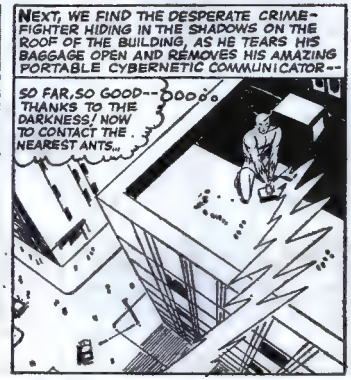

WHEEEE
IT IS ALMOST THE HOUR OF THREE --TIME FOR THE RIO EXPRESS --AND THERE IT IS NOW!

A TRAIN!! COMING TOWARDS ME THROUGH THE TUNNEL!! NO TIME TO TURN BACK NOW!!
THAT'S WHY THEY GAVE UP THE CHASE! THEY THOUGHT THE TRAIN WOULD FINISH ME OFF!!
WHEEEE


I'VE ONLY ONE CHANCE-- IF THERE'S ENOUGH CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE CARS AND THE TOP OF THE TUNNEL!!


MINUTES LATER, THE EXPRESS HURTLES THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH A FANTASTIC PASSENGER RIDING ABOVE...
LOOKS AS THOUGH MY LUCK IS FINALLY CHANGING! I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP OF THE TRAIN--AND WE WENT BY THE TROOPS SO FAST THAT THEY COULDN'T STOP ME!!
THE ONLY THING IS--WE'RE COMING TO THE CAPITAL CITY!! BUT THIS TIME NIGHT IS FALLING--PERHAPS I CAN FIND A HIDING PLACE IN THE DARK, BIG AS I AM!

TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
THIS IS A BIG CHANCE, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE IT! IF I CAN JUST REACH MY BAGGAGE IN THE ROOM WHERE THEY'VE LOCKED IT, I'LL BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE ANTS!!


NEXT, WE FIND THE DESPERATE CRIME-FIGHTER HIDING IN THE SHADOWS ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING, AS HE TEARS HIS BAGGAGE OPEN AND REMOVES HIS AMAZING PORTABLE CYBERNETIC COMMUNICATOR--
SO FAR, SO GOOD--THANKS TO THE DARKNESS! NOW TO CONTACT THE NEAREST ANTS...

INASMUCH AS MY DEVICE OPERATES ON THOUGHT IMPULSES, LANGUAGE IS NO BARRIER!!
AH! I'VE REACHED ONE NOW! HE'LL CONTACT THE OTHERS...

WITHIN MINUTES, A VAST NETWORK OF ANTS HAS ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN MIND--LOCATE THE WASP! AND FINALLY...
CAPTIVE GIRL IN SHIP--ANCHORED OFF COAST--INFORM ANT-MAN--INFORM ANT-MAN--

AND SO, BEFORE DAWN BREAKS OVER THE HORIZON...
THAT MUST BE THE SHIP!

I'M TOO BIG TO FIT IN ANY OF THESE SPEED BOATS...
--BUT, WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY! THIS BEATS WATER-SKIING ALL HOLLOW!!

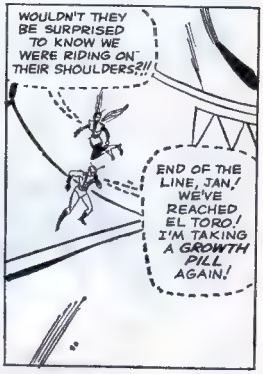
FINALLY...
SAVE THE TEMPER TANTRUM FOR LATER, JAN! WHERE ARE THE CAPSULES I GAVE YOU??
WELL! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FOUND ME!
IN MY PURSE! THE WAY THEY TIED ME, I COULDN'T REACH THEM!

REACHING THROUGH THE PORTHOLE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF SECONDS BEFORE GIANT-MAN GETS THE CAPSULES, TAKES ONE -- AND THEN--
OKAY, DOLL! NOW HERE'S ONE FOR YOU--

AND, A SHORT TIME LATER...
EL TORO SAYS THE GIRL MUST BE A FOREIGN SPY! SHE IS TO BE EXECUTED BEFORE THE GIANT ONE CAN FIND HER!
WHAT A PITY! SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SENORITA! HOW COULD SUCH A LOVELY ONE BE ANY THREAT TO THE REIGN OF EL TORO??

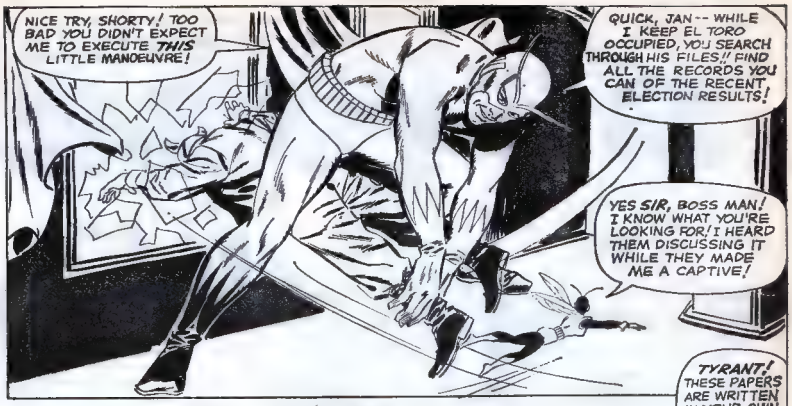
BUT, WE MUST OBEY EL TORO'S ORDERS! SO-- CARREMBA!! WHAT IS WRONG??
THE GIRL! SHE HAS VANISHED! THE CABIN IS EMPTY!!

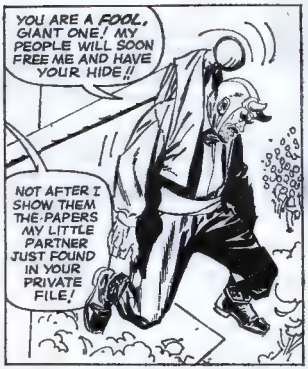
WE MUST INFORM EL TORO! SHE MUST NOT ESCAPE!
OUR LIVES WILL BE WORTHLESS IF SHE IS NOT RECAPTURED! FASTER, YOU FOOL!!

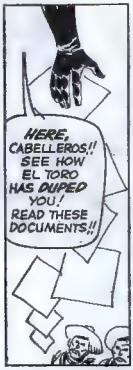

WOULDN'T THEY BE SURPRISED TO KNOW WE WERE RIDING ON THEIR SHOULDERS?!!
END OF THE LINE, JAN! WE'VE REACHED EL TORO! I'M TAKING A GROWTH PILL AGAIN!

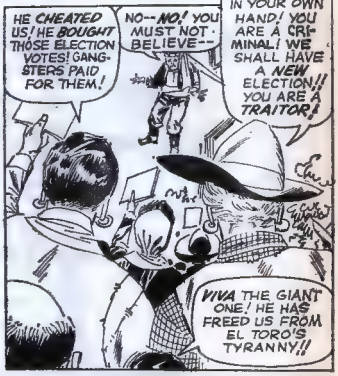
AND SO...
I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME, CHUBBINS!
THE GIANT ONE!!

I BATTERED YOU ONCE WITH MY IRRESISTIBLE CHARGE, AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN--
GUESS AGAIN, PLAYMATE! THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME BY SURPRISE!









NEXT WEEK: THE COMING OF THE MAGICIAN!

TERRIFIC NEWS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:— *TERRIFIC* 64, LONG ACRE LONDON, W.C.2

Hold tight to your typewriters Alf and Bart, and steel yourselves for a broadside from malevolent *ME*! I appreciate that the *needle* between Cap and the two male members of the Avengers makes a *darn* (needle . . . darn cunning aren't I ?) good human interest angle. But even so do you take us F.O's for *nits* (knits). Was there a leader in the OLD Avengers ? ? NO—there was *not*! What's more the reason that there was no leader was that they wanted to be DEMOCRATIC. Remember how they used to take it in *TURNS* to preside at the Avengers' meetings ? Well I don't see why the new Avengers shouldn't organise themselves in the same way ! ! If all they're arguing about is whose going to boss the outfit—then so long as there's a boss (who ever it is) they'll *still argue*! So why don't they go democratic and save themselves a lot of trouble and your ever lovin' readers a lot of heartache ? ? Call me *the creep*!
Bernard Jarvis,
Leeds.

It's a question of personalities, Creep. The new, young team doesn't have the maturity to operate as a cohesive, swinging unit without the discipline of a *leader*!
And remember, back in issue 22, Cap'n America was *elected* spokesman because of his seniority!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I am one of your Terrific followers. I have three questions to ask you. 1. How did The Eraser erase the hand that his automically printed circuit was on ? 2. How did the automically printed circuit fit Giant-man's hand when he was ant size ? 3. How did Ant man erase the tops of the men captured in Dimension 'Z' ?
Shane O'Reilly,
Raheny,
Dublin 5.

1. This is a matter of *sleight of hand*, Shane, the quickness of the hand deceiving the eye. Hands up all you out there who *saw* how he did it ? 2. Presumably the master of many sizes broke open a reducing tablet and poured the reducing fluid over the machine. 3. No difficulty here, lad, he just pointed the circuit up at them and they faded away. Just as their backs faded even though he was aiming at their fronts. Okay ?

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart.
COULD YOU PLEASE! MAKE A GIRL SUPER TEAM IN POWER COMICS, BECAUSE ALL your super teams have only one girl and the rest men so if you could make a team of girls you would have another extra happy power packed fan who has devoted his life to power comics. P.S. And also I need a new T-shirt. P.S.S.—Again Terrific forever.
Ronnie Albrow,
Sunderland,
Co. Durham.

A whole team of super heroines might spend too much time *talking* and not enough in *action*, Ron. But we think that pretty girls are definitely *great* comic story material—just look at this very mag: there's the Wasp, the Scarlet Witch and Don Starr's little charmer, Jane. And, just between ourselves, next week the fascinatingly wicked Enchantress makes the scene—so keep your eyes open!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I am enclosing a hilariously funny, A.1, Power-type, Frantic Fun lovin', lil' ol' JOKE for your mag. 'Cos I think it needs my help: *Little girl: Mummy what is all shapes and colours, is wet, and lies in the mud?*

Mother: I've no time for riddles now, what is it?

Little girl: Your washing—the line's broken!

I have spoken!
Mr. Andrew Rylark,
Borehamwood,
Herts.

A shapely, colourful, washable item is posting down to Herts. even now—we mean, of course, the stupendous, Avenger-bedecked vest, guaranteed to hold up any broken line!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I'm suffering from a king size belt on the ear all because of your ever lovable mag. Me and my brother were arguing the other night about the age of the ANCIENT ONE—and my ferocious father THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HIM! So what happens . . . he grabs a copy of our latest FANTASTIC, rolls it up, and POW! SOCK! THUMP! WOWEE!! And for an old man he can certainly pack his punches. Now tell me this: is the Ancient One over a hundred and three years of age ? If he is, he is older than my dad by about three months!
Francis John Smith,
Cambridge.

The Ancient One is so old he makes your dad seem like a boy, F.J.S. In fact he was born in KAMA-TA.) more than five hundred years ago! As you'll all be able to see in three weeks' time when we present, *The Origin of the Ancient One*! Don't miss it!

Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I have a tale so sad to tell,
I'm too upset to tell it well.
It's about my Terrific—please don't laugh,
I was reading it while in the bath,
When, *splash*, it fell in, you can guess
That now it looks a mess!
Under the water line it sunk,
Now poor old Giant-man has shrunk!
As for the Wasp, her wings were soaked,
Captain America was nearly choked,
Iron man is awfully rusty,
And the Ancient One's no longer dusty!
I suppose I'll have to buy another,
If I can get the money from my mother!
Evan J. Lloyd,
Neath Abbey,
Glam.

It's a pity the Sub Mariner isn't still with us these days, E.J.L., he'd have been in his element!

Alf and Bart.

Why don't YOU try for one of those AVENGER T-SHIRTS?

FREE 33 DIFFERENT BRITISH EMPIRE QUEEN STAMPS

given to new customers who would like to see our approval books. These contain stamps sent for your inspection from which you may buy. You may buy this offer for 3/- if you do not want the approvals. Send 4d. for postage, and if you are of school age please tell your parents. We regret that we cannot send our approval books out of Europe.

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THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

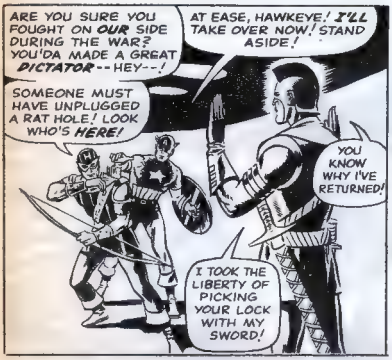
VENGEANCE IS OURS Part 3

THE SWORDSMAN AND THE MANDARIN PLOT TO DESTROY THE AVENGERS FROM WITHIN. THUS WE SEE A FALSE IMAGE OF IRON MAN CONFRONTING THE MIGHTY TEAM...

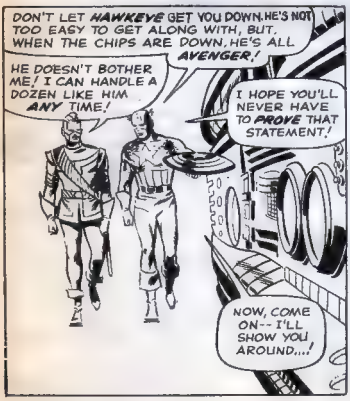
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

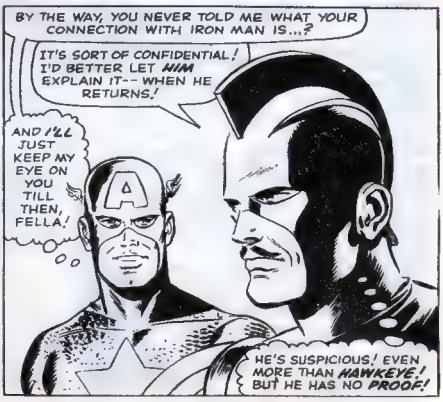
I'VE GOT TO SAY ONE THING FOR THE MANDARIN--
HE MAY NOT BE THE GUY I'D MOST LIKE TO BE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND WITH--
--BUT, I'D SURE RATHER HAVE THAT ORIENTAL ODDBALL WITH ME THAN AGAINST ME!

MEANWHILE...
HEY, CAP... I KNOW THAT IRON MAN IS KINDA LIKE AN ELDER STATESMAN AROUND HERE, BUT I THOUGHT WE MADE OUR OWN DECISIONS ON THIS TEAM!
LOOK, ROBIN HOOD-- WE'RE A FIGHTING TEAM, NOT A DEBATING SOCIETY! THE MATTER'S SETTLED, SO GET OFF MY BACK, MISTER!


ARE YOU SURE YOU FOUGHT ON OUR SIDE DURING THE WAR? YOU'DA MADE A GREAT DICTATOR--HEY--!
AT EASE, HAWKEYE! I'LL TAKE OVER NOW! STAND ASIDE!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE UNPLUGGED A RAT HOLE! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
YOU KNOW WHY I'VE RETURNED!
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PICKING YOUR LOCK WITH MY SWORD!

THEN, DESPITE SOME MUFFLED GRUMBLING FROM HAWKEYE, THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IS QUICKLY COMPLETED...
CONGRATULATIONS, SWORDSMAN! YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW! WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS!
GLAD TO BE WITH YOU, CAP! MAYBE EVEN GLADDER THAN YOU THINK!
NEXT THING Y'KNOW WE'LL BE SWEARIN' IN DR. DOOM!


DON'T LET HAWKEYE GET YOU DOWN. HE'S NOT TOO EASY TO GET ALONG WITH, BUT, WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN, HE'S ALL AVENGER!
HE DOESN'T BOTHER ME! I CAN HANDLE A DOZEN LIKE HIM ANY TIME!
I HOPE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO PROVE THAT STATEMENT!
NOW, COME ON-- I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND...!


BY THE WAY, YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOUR CONNECTION WITH IRON MAN IS...?
IT'S SORT OF CONFIDENTIAL! I'D BETTER LET HIM EXPLAIN IT-- WHEN HE RETURNS!
AND I'LL JUST KEEP MY EYE ON YOU TILL THEN, FELLA!
HE'S SUSPICIOUS! EVEN MORE THAN HAWKEYE! BUT HE HAS NO PROOF!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE SWORDSMAN IS NEVER FAR FROM THE WATCHFUL EYE OF A FELLOW AVENGER, DURING HIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD...!
THEY WATCH ME CONSTANTLY! I HAVE NOT YET WON THEIR TRUST! BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

AND THEN, ONE DAY-- DURING A REST PERIOD--
THEY'RE NOT LOOKING! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO COMPLETE THE MANDARIN'S TRAP--!

THIS LITTLE GADGET WILL LOOK LIKE ANOTHER INNOCENT DIAL ON THEIR CONTROL PANEL...

THEY'LL NEVER SUSPECT THAT IT'S A BOMB-- CAPABLE OF FINISHING THEM ALL WHEN IRON MAN SHOWS UP!
NONE OF THEM SAW ME FASTEN IT TO THE PANEL!

THE MANDARIN CAN SET IT OFF BY REMOTE CONTROL AT THE RIGHT MOMENT!
BUT, I WISH I COULD SAVE THE SCARLET WITCH! SHE'S TOO BEAUTIFUL TO BE HARMED!

LATER THAT NIGHT, A PHANTOM FIGURE AWAKENS THE STARTLED SWORDSMAN...
DO NOT BE ALARMED! THIS IS MERELY A PROJECTO-IMAGE OF MYSELF!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL IT -- I DON'T LIKE UNINVITED GUESTS!! AND THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO!

DO NOT BORE ME WITH YOUR PRATTLING! DID YOU PLANT THE BOMB?
SURE! IT WAS A CINCH!

AH, SO! THAT IS GOOD!
I AM HERE TO WARN YOU-- I HAVE CHANGED MY PLANS! I AM TOO IMPATIENT TO AWAIT THE RETURN OF MY CHOSEN VICTIM!
YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE! I SHALL SET OFF THE BOMB TONIGHT!
NO! YOU'LL KILL THEM ALL! HOW COME? WHAT ABOUT IRON MAN?!

THIS WILL SPEED HIS ARRIVAL! WHEN HE LEARNS OF THEIR FATE, HE WILL COME TO INVESTIGATE--AND THEN WE SHALL TRAP HIM!

WAIT! IT'S TOO SUDDEN! LET'S TALK IT OVER! WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL--? MANDARIN!! HE--HE'S GONE!

FOR LONG, TORTUROUS MOMENTS, THE SWORDSMAN STANDS MOTIONLESS-- HIS BRAIN SEETHING-- UNTIL--
I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO HAPPEN THIS WAY--!

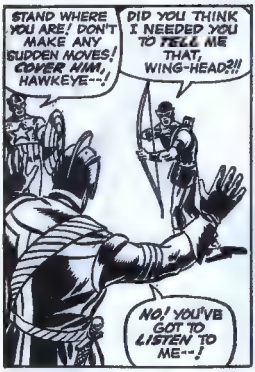
I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT! NOT LIKE THIS! NOT WITHOUT A CHANCE!

THUS, WITHIN SECONDS...
I COULD TAKE PRIDE IN A VICTORY IN BATTLE-- BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT!
EVEN AN ENEMY DESERVES A FIGHTING CHANCE! THE SWORDSMAN CANNOT STOOP TO --ASSASSINATION!!

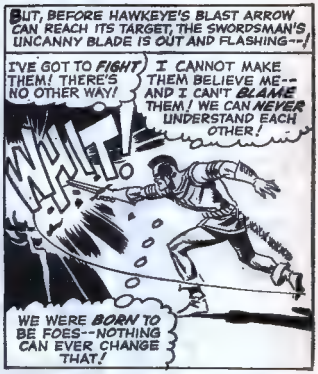
IT'S COMING UNDONE! THERE-- I'VE PRIED IT LOOSE! ONCE IT'S RELEASED FROM THE PANEL, IT CAN NO LONGER BE DETONATED!
SWORDSMAN!! YOU'RE TAMPERING WITH OUR CONTROL PANEL! IN YOUR HAND-- A NITRO-BOMB!!

OUR SUSPICIONS WERE CORRECT! YOU WERE PART OF A PLOT TO DESTROY US!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!!
NO! WAIT! I CAN EXPLAIN --!

I'LL BET YOU CAN EXPLAIN, MISTER! YOU ALWAYS WERE GOOD AT TALKING YOUR WAY OUT OF THINGS! BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
DID YOU TAKE US FOR AMATEURS?? I RAN INTO ENOUGH BOOBY-TRAP BOMBS IN WORLD WAR TWO TO BE ABLE TO SMELL ONE A MILE AWAY!
WAIT! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK--! I WASN'T JUST PLANTING IT NOW!


STAND WHERE YOU ARE! DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVES! COVER HIM, HAWKEYE--!
DID YOU THINK I NEEDED YOU TO TELL ME THAT, WING-HEAD?!!
NO! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME--!

YOU HEARD THE MAN!! HE SAID NO SUDDEN MOVES!!


BUT, BEFORE HAWKEYE'S BLAST ARROW CAN REACH ITS TARGET, THE SWORDSMAN'S UNCANNY BLADE IS OUT AND FLASHING--!
I'VE GOT TO FIGHT THEM! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!
I CANNOT MAKE THEM BELIEVE ME-- AND I CAN'T BLAME THEM! WE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER!
WHIT!
WE WERE BORN TO BE FOES--NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE THAT!

NOW THAT IT'S OUT IN THE OPEN, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE--!

CLANG!
THE SWORD DOESN'T EXIST THAT MY SHIELD CAN'T PARRY!!
-UHHHH-!
NO ONE HAS EVER GOT PAST MY SLASHING SWORD BEFORE! NO WONDER HE'S BECOME A LIVING LEGEND--!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE SWORDSMAN'S FINGER TOUCHES ONE OF THE BUTTONS THE MANDARIN HAS ADDED TO HIS WEAPON, AND...
FLAME! ENOUGH TO PUT ANY FOE TO ROUTE!

CAN'T GET ANY CLOSER TO HIM! THE HEAT IS TOO INTENSE!!
PLAN "G"!! AS WE REHEARSED IT!!

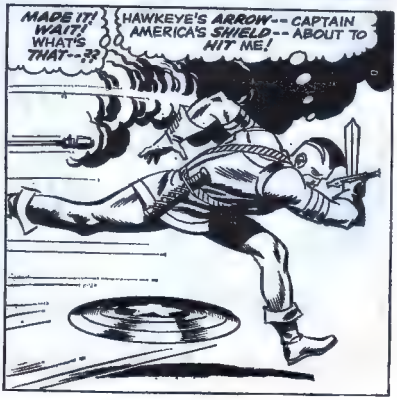
PERFECT! BY TRAVELLING AT TOP SPEED, YOU CREATE ENOUGH OF AN AIR VACUUM TO SNUFF OUT ANY SUDDEN FLAME!

BLAST IT!! I CAN'T GET ANY ARROWS PAST HIS LIGHTNING-FAST SWORD!!
KLAK
CAN'T FEND THEM OFF MUCH LONGER! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE WHILE I CAN!
THOK!

HE'S TRYING TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE DOOR--BUT AN INFALLIBLE HEX WILL STOP HIM--!

I WAS ABOUT TO REACH THE DOOR--THEN SOMETHING MADE ME CHANGE DIRECTION--I'M RUNNING TOWARD THE WALL!
CAN I BE GOING MAD??!

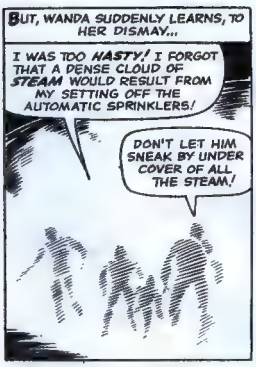
BUT, MAD OR NOT, THE MANDARIN'S DISINTEGRATOR BUTTON WILL REDUCE THAT CONTROL PANEL TO ATOMS!
WHISSSSS!!


MADE IT! WAIT! WHAT'S THAT--??
HAWKEYE'S ARROW--CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD--ABOUT TO HIT ME!

BUT, A SUDDEN, MASTERFUL SWEEP OF HIS SWORD DEFLECTS THE FATEFUL SHIELD, CAUSING IT TO STRIKE HAWKEYE'S BOLA ARROW AND RENDER IT USELESS!
BANG!

THIS GIVES ME A BREATHING SPELL--BUT ONLY FOR A MATTER OF SECONDS!!
IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT TO THE DOOR THROUGH ALL THIS FLAME...!

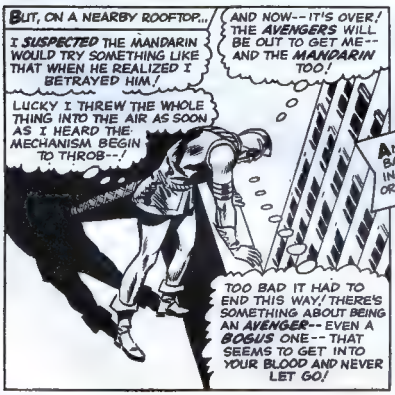
BUT, THE WATCHFUL SCARLET WITCH SENSES THE SWORDSMAN'S INTENT, AND SO--
ONLY THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF MY HEX POWER WILL BE NECESSARY THIS TIME--!
ZAP!

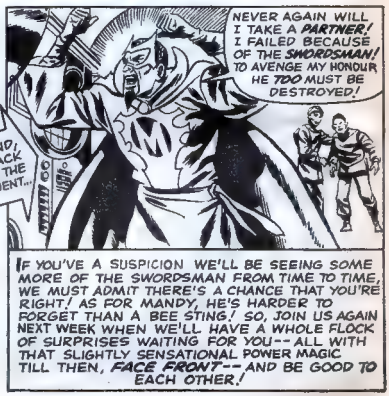

BUT, WANDA SUDDENLY LEARNS, TO HER DISMAY...
I WAS TOO HASTY! I FORGOT THAT A DENSE CLOUD OF STEAM WOULD RESULT FROM MY SETTING OFF THE AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS!
DON'T LET HIM SNEAK BY UNDER COVER OF ALL THE STEAM!

BUT, WHEN THE VAPOURS FINALLY DISSOLVE...
HE'S GONE!

LISTEN! AN EXPLOSION--FROM OUTSIDE!

THE BOMB HE CARRIED--DO YOU THINK IT--GOT HIM??
LET'S HOPE SO, WANDA--FOR OUR SAKES!


BUT, ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP...
I SUSPECTED THE MANDARIN WOULD TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WHEN HE REALIZED I BETRAYED HIM!
LUCKY I THREW THE WHOLE THING INTO THE AIR AS SOON AS I HEARD THE MECHANISM BEGIN TO THROB--!
AND NOW--IT'S OVER! THE AVENGERS WILL BE OUT TO GET ME--AND THE MANDARIN TOO!
TOO BAD IT HAD TO END THIS WAY! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BEING AN AVENGER--EVEN A BOGUS ONE--THAT SEEMS TO GET INTO YOUR BLOOD AND NEVER LET GO!


AND, BACK IN THE ORIENT...
NEVER AGAIN WILL I TAKE A PARTNER! I FAILED BECAUSE OF THE SWORDSMAN! TO AVENGE MY HONOUR HE TOO MUST BE DESTROYED!
IF YOU'VE A SUSPICION WE'LL BE SEEING SOME MORE OF THE SWORDSMAN FROM TIME TO TIME, WE MUST ADMIT THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT! AS FOR MANDY, HE'S HARDER TO FORGET THAN A BEE STING! SO, JOIN US AGAIN NEXT WEEK WHEN WE'LL HAVE A WHOLE FLOCK OF SURPRISES WAITING FOR YOU--ALL WITH THAT SLIGHTLY SENSATIONAL POWER MAGIC TILL THEN, FACE FRONT--AND BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER!

ODD SPORTS

NEW BROOM FOR A CLEAN SWEEP

MRS. MORAH RYAN swept her way to victory and a prize of a vacuum cleaner at a sports meeting for housewives held in Missouri.

The course was a stretch of asphalt pavement along which were painted two parallel white lines each 40 feet long and three feet apart. The space between the lines was strewn with an assortment of rubbish including small tins, balls of paper, cabbage stalks, etc.

Fifteen housewives entered and each was provided with a dustpan and brush and a sack. The course was completed by one competitor at a time.

Each competitor had to get along the course as quickly as possible collecting the rubbish with the dustpan and brush and putting it into the sack. There was a system of penalty points, one point being forfeit for any rubbish not swept up, dropped when being put into the sack, or being swept off the course.

Any competitor forfeiting more than ten points was disqualified.

Mrs. Ryan completed the course in seven minutes with a two-point forfeit. The runner-up took eleven minutes with a five-point forfeit. Her prize was a carpet sweeper. Third place went to a housewife who finished the course in 12 minutes with a forfeit of eight points. She was awarded a new broom.

One-Arm *v.* One-Leg Cricket

CRICKET WITH A DIFFERENCE was recently played in a small South African town. Each player that went into bat had his legs tied together at the ankles, while the bowlers and fielders had their right arms tied behind their backs.

Batsmen had someone to run for them, but their chief problem was keeping their balance at the wicket. Any batsman who swiped at a ball and toppled over was declared out.

On the other hand, fielders had an equally difficult task as fielding and catching all had to be done with one hand. Only one catch was made, three batsmen were clean-bowled, three toppled over, and the rest were caught and stumped by the one-armed wicket-keeper.

The batsmen scored 63 runs for their innings. The opposing eleven then went in with their legs tied and scored 71 and the other eleven fielded with their hands tied. They made no catches at all.

The promoters of the match, which was for charity, got this idea from a game played at Chelsea Hospital over 100 years ago. Then a team of one-armed navy pensioners played and defeated eleven one-legged army pensioners!

PUSH-A-BIKE DERBY

TIRED and with blistered hands and feet, Yoshu Sen pushed his pedal cycle across the finishing line in a town in Japan to win a prize of 500 yen. Yoshu Sen's feet were blistered because he had pushed his bike for 15 miles with a passenger sitting on the cross-bar.

About 30 pairs entered for the contest. According to the rules one man sat on the cross-bar and the other pushed. Half the competitors failed to finish the course, which included a number of hills.

One team, twin brothers, were disqualified because they were caught changing places during the first five miles! Another team were "sent off" when the stewards noticed that the passenger was secretly peddling as the bike went uphill.

Yoshu completed the course in five hours. The runner-up passed the finishing post 35 minutes after him.

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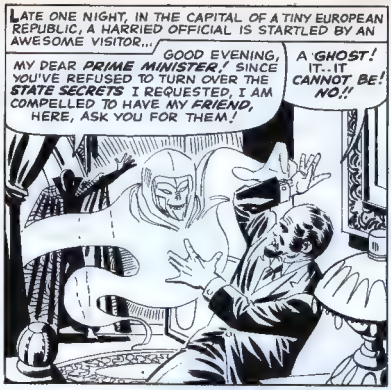
DAVIES

SEE PACEMAKER SKATES AND JUMPING JACKS AT YOUR LOCAL STORE

Dr. STRANGE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

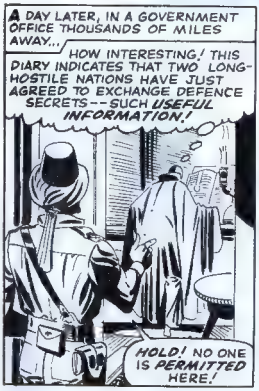
"TO CATCH A MAGICIAN!"

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group.1965


LATE ONE NIGHT, IN THE CAPITAL OF A TINY EUROPEAN REPUBLIC, A HARRIED OFFICIAL IS STARTLED BY AN AWESOME VISITOR...
GOOD EVENING, MY DEAR PRIME MINISTER! SINCE YOU'VE REFUSED TO TURN OVER THE STATE SECRETS I REQUESTED, I AM COMPELLED TO HAVE MY FRIEND, HERE, ASK YOU FOR THEM!
A GHOST! IT..IT CANNOT BE! NO!!

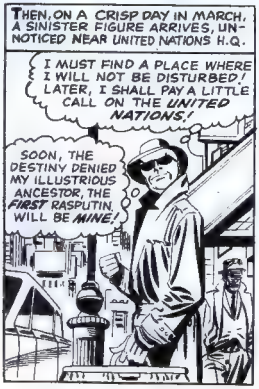
HOW SAD! MY LITTLE ILLUSION CAUSED THE POOR SOUL TO FAINT! I AM FORCED TO TAKE WHAT I WANT!
YOU HAVE THE MONEY YOU PROMISED ME FOR MY COOPERATION?
AH, YES--THE MONEY!

SUDDENLY, THE CLOAKED FIGURE SEEMS TO MELT AS...
I--CAN'T MOVE!
I SHOULD BE MOST ALARMED IF YOU COULD! BUT, DON'T FRET--THE SPELL WILL DISSOLVE WITH THE MORNING!

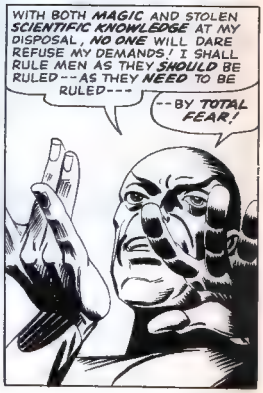

A DAY LATER, IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY...
HOW INTERESTING! THIS DIARY INDICATES THAT TWO LONG-HOSTILE NATIONS HAVE JUST AGREED TO EXCHANGE DEFENCE SECRETS--SUCH USEFUL INFORMATION!
HOLD! NO ONE IS PERMITTED HERE!

WITH A SINGLE GESTURE, THE STRANGER PARALYZES THE GUARD...
WHEN YOU RECOVER, TELL YOUR SUPERIORS THAT MR. RASPUTIN THANKS THEM FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY!

ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THE MOST GUARDED SECRETS OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS ARE PILFERED BY THE ONE KNOWN ONLY AS... MR. RASPUTIN! NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE WILL NEXT STRIKE --OR WHEN!


THEN, ON A CRISP DAY IN MARCH, A SINISTER FIGURE ARRIVES, UNNOTICED NEAR UNITED NATIONS H.Q.
I MUST FIND A PLACE WHERE I WILL NOT BE DISTURBED! LATER, I SHALL PAY A LITTLE CALL ON THE UNITED NATIONS!
SOON, THE DESTINY DENIED MY ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTOR, THE FIRST RASPUTIN WILL BE MINE!

RENTING A LONG-ABANDONED LOFT, THE MYSTERIOUS MAGICIAN TESTS HIS FANTASTIC POWERS...
AH! MY SKILL AT CREATING THE ILLUSIONS OF IKONN HAS NOT DIMINISHED! IF ANYTHING, IT IS INCREASING WITH CONTINUED USE!


WITH BOTH MAGIC AND STOLEN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AT MY DISPOSAL, NO ONE WILL DARE REFUSE MY DEMANDS! I SHALL RULE MEN AS THEY SHOULD BE RULED--AS THEY NEED TO BE RULED---
--BY TOTAL FEAR!

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, AT HIS OWN LONELY RETREAT IN THAT AREA, DR. STRANGE FINDS HIS MEDITATIONS INTERRUPTED...
THE CRYSTAL DETECTS SOME NEW MAGIC NEARBY--EVIL MAGIC! I MUST UNCOVER ITS ORIGIN, IF I CAN!
SECONDS LATER, WEARING HIS CLOAK OF LEVITATION, THE MASTER OF THE OCCULT GLIDES SILENTLY OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF THE SLEEPING CITY...
THE SENSE OF MENACE GROWS STRONGER! COULD IT BE THAT BARON MORDO HAS SOMEHOW ESCAPED HIS OTHER-DIMENSIONAL EXILE*?
*HE WAS BANISHED BY DORMAMMU IN TERRIFIC 28--OR WAS IT 30? --BAFFLED BART.
ANXIOUSLY, VIGILANTLY, THE SORCERER USES HIS UNCANNY MYSTIC EYE TO SCAN THE BUILDINGS BELOW...
THERE! IN THAT LOFT! SOMEONE IS PERFORMING THE FORBIDDEN RITUAL OF IKONN!
SWOOPING DOWN TO AN OPEN WINDOW, HE OBSERVES THE AUDACIOUS NEWCOMER COMPLETING THE EVIL CEREMONY...
THE STRANGER APPEARS PRACTICED IN THE BLACK ARTS! I MUST BE CAUTIOUS!
SPEAK YOUR NAME, BRAZEN ONE! DR. STRANGE WOULD KNOW YOUR IDENTITY, AND BY WHAT AUTHORITY YOU PERFORM FORBIDDEN RITES!
AH, MY DEAR DOCTOR! COME IN! I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOUR COURTESY CALL!
IN FACT, I HAVE PREPARED A WELCOME FOR YOU! PREPARE NOW TO TREMBLE AT THE FEARFUL POWER OF--MISTER RASPUTIN!
AM I A CHILD, TO BE FRIGHTENED BY A MERE ILLUSION--A SHADOW OF A SHADOW? YOU OVERESTIMATE YOURSELF!
I THINK NOT! I HAVE A FEW OTHER SURPRISES FOR YOU, AS WELL!
NO MATTER! I AM YOUR MASTER!
HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH I AM LOATH TO ADMIT IT! HE FENDS OFF MY EVERY ATTACK! I CAN NEVER WIN THIS BATTLE FAIRLY--!
NORMALLY, I COULD DEFEAT HIM WITH EASE--BUT I AM STILL WEAK FROM MY BATTLE WITH TAZZA*!
*LAST ISH; LIKE!--HIPPY BART!

HE'S SHATTERING MY STRONGEST DEFENCES! I CAN'T HOLD HIM AT BAY MUCH LONGER!
I MUST NOT SHOW WEAKNESS! HE WILL NEVER RELENT UNTIL I MASTER HIM--WITH ONE FINAL SURGE OF POWER--!

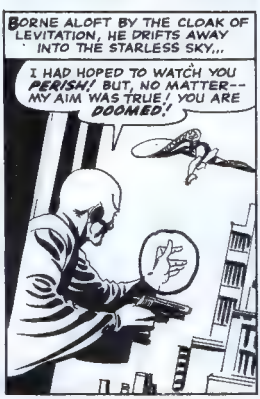
--NOW! MAY THE ETERNAL VISHANTI AID ME!
I HAVE NO MORE COUNTER-MEASURES!
YET, I WILL NOT BETRAY MY DESTINY! ONE THING MAY DEFEAT HIM!

I BOW TO YOUR PROWESS, MY DEAR DOCTOR! YOUR MAGIC IS INDEED FORMIDABLE! BUT, THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PATH TO VICTORY! SOMETHING SIMPLE...
...SOMETHING BENEATH YOUR NOTICE WILL BE YOUR UNDOING!

THERE IS NOTHING ENCHANTED ABOUT THIS PISTOL! BUT, IT WILL SERVE MY PURPOSE QUITE WELL, NEVERTHELESS!
THERE'S NO TIME TO PREPARE A DEFENCE...
SUCH A DEVICE IS A COWARD'S WEAPON!

I DO NOT CLAIM TO BE A BRAVE MAN--MERELY A SUCCESSFUL ONE! GOOD-BYE, DR. STRANGE!
UHHHH--!
KRAK!

THOUGH SORELY WOUNDED, THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS MANAGES TO REACH THE WINDOW...
LEAVING ALREADY, MY FRIEND? HOW RUDE OF YOU!
I MUST RETREAT--I AM HELPLESS...


BORNE ALOFT BY THE CLOAK OF LEVITATION, HE DRIFTS AWAY INTO THE STARLESS SKY...
I HAD HOPED TO WATCH YOU PERISH! BUT, NO MATTER--MY AIM WAS TRUE! YOU ARE DOOMED!

I AM LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS--THERE IS A HOSPITAL BELOW...I MUST WILL MY CLOAK TO TAKE ME THERE!
I CANNOT--I MUST NOT DIE! RASPUTIN MUST BE STOPPED!

MOMENTS LATER...
WHAT THE--? A MAN--FLOATING IN THE WINDOW!? MAYBE I'VE BEEN ON NIGHT DUTY TOO LONG!
WHO-EVER HE MAY BE--HE'S HURT!

SWIFTLY, THE UNCONSCIOUS SORCERER IS RUSHED TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM...
THIS MAN'S BEEN SHOT! GET A BLOOD TRANSFUSION READY, NURSE--HE NEEDS SURGERY!
YES, DOCTOR!

THEN, AFTER THE WOUND HAS BEEN TENDED...
HE'S IN SHOCK, BUT I THINK HE'LL RECOVER! HAVE YOU NOTIFIED THE POLICE?
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY NOW!

NIGHTMARISH HOURS PASS--HOURS FILLED WITH POLICE QUESTIONING, ANXIOUS MINISTRATIONS, AND PAIN! THEN...
SORRY, STRANGE, BUT WE WENT OVER THE LOFT YOU MENTIONED WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB! THERE WASN'T A SIGN OF THAT GUY RASPUTIN!
HE'S TOO CUNNING TO REMAIN IN ONE PLACE AND RISK POSSIBLE CAPTURE! BY NOW, HE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE CITY!
DON'T WORRY! NO MATTER NOW CLEVER HE IS, HE CAN'T STAY LOST FOREVER!

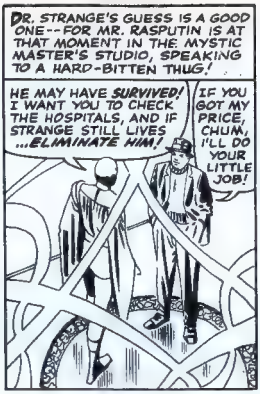
BUT, DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO REMAIN AT LARGE! HE POSSESSES POWERS BEYOND THE KEN OF MOST MORTALS! I MUST SEEK HIM OUT--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
TAKE IT EASY! YOU'VE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!
CALM DOWN, NOW! THERE'S NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO!

ANYWAY, NO HOCUS-POCUS ARTIST IS GONNA DO THAT MUCH DAMAGE! WE'LL GET 'IM, ALL RIGHT!
COME, OFFICER! THE PATIENT MUST REST NOW--!
THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THERE'S MORE TO MAGIC THAN TRICKERY! THEY CANNOT COMPREHEND RASPUTIN'S CAPACITY FOR EVIL!

HE MUST HAVE SOME REASON FOR COMING HERE, SO HE IS PROBABLY STILL IN THE AREA! BUT--WHERE? HE WOULD NEED A PLACE WHERE NO ONE WOULD ASK QUESTIONS--WHERE THE POLICE WOULD NEVER LOOK!
--A PLACE LIKE--OF COURSE! THAT'S IT!

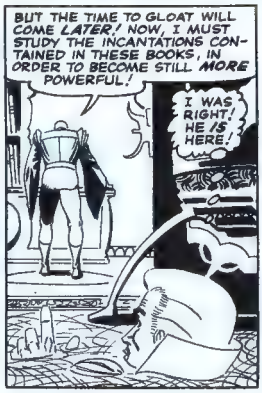
MY OWN RETREAT!!

AND YET, I CAN'T BE CERTAIN-- SO I SHALL ASSUME MY ECTOPLASMIC FORM AND PAY MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM A VISIT! LUCKILY, MY ETHEREAL SELF CANNOT BE WEAKENED BY A PHYSICAL WOUND!


DR. STRANGE'S GUESS IS A GOOD ONE--FOR MR. RASPUTIN IS AT THAT MOMENT IN THE MYSTIC MASTER'S STUDIO, SPEAKING TO A HARD-BITTEN THUG!
HE MAY HAVE SURVIVED! I WANT YOU TO CHECK THE HOSPITALS, AND IF STRANGE STILL LIVES ...ELIMINATE HIM!
IF YOU GOT MY PRICE, CHUM, I'LL DO YOUR LITTLE JOB!

I'LL BE IN TOUCH AS SOON AS I'VE FINISHED THE JOB! SO GET THE CASH READY!
EXCELLENT, MY FRIEND! YOU WILL BE GIVEN EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE, I PROMISE YOU!

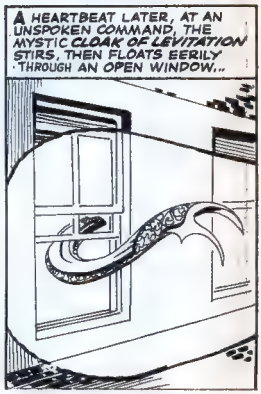
WITH DR. STRANGE GONE, I SHALL FINALLY ACHIEVE THE DOMINATION DENIED MY ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTOR, THE FIRST RASPUTIN, WHEN THE FOOLISH RUSSIANS KILLED HIM!

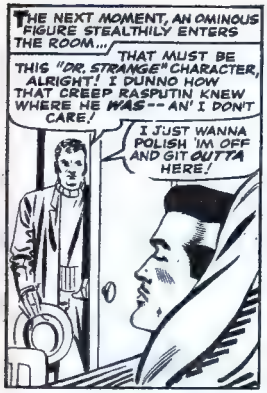

BUT THE TIME TO GLOAT WILL COME LATER! NOW, I MUST STUDY THE INCANTATIONS CONTAINED IN THESE BOOKS, IN ORDER TO BECOME STILL MORE POWERFUL!
I WAS RIGHT! HE IS HERE!

HE IS STUDYING THE SACRED TEXTS OF THE ETERNAL VISHANTI AND OF THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR!
IF HE DECIPHERS THOSE SPELLS, I COULD BE DOOMED!

I CANNOT BATTE RASPUTIN UNTIL I GAIN PHYSICAL AID-- AND THERE IS BUT ONE PLACE FROM WHICH THAT AID CAN COME!

SILENTLY, THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO PROJECTS AN INDOMITABLE WILL ACROSS THE DISTANCE TO THE HOSPITAL ROOM...

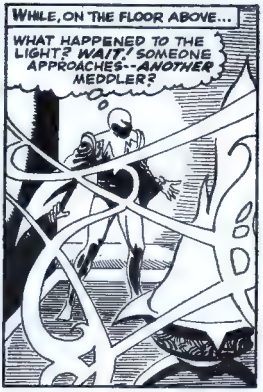

A HEARTBEAT LATER, AT AN UNSPOKEN COMMAND, THE MYSTIC CLOAK OF LEVITATION STIRS, THEN FLOATS EERILY THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...


THE NEXT MOMENT, AN OMINOUS FIGURE STEALTHILY ENTERS THE ROOM...
THAT MUST BE THIS "DR. STRANGE" CHARACTER, ALRIGHT! I DUNNO HOW THAT CREEP RASPUTIN KNEW WHERE HE WAS -- AN' I DON'T CARE!
I JUST WANNA POLISH 'IM OFF AND GIT OUTTA HERE!

LOOKS LIKE RASPUTIN ONLY WOUNDED HIM! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH AMATEURS...
THEY AINT THOROUGH --LIKE US PROS!

HE SHOULDA HIRED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE -- I'DA HOOKED ON MY SILENCER AN DONE THE JOB REAL NICE 'N QUIET!
LIKE I'M GONNA DO RIGHT NOW!
SO LONG, STRANGE! IT'S BEEN NICE NOT KNOWIN' YA!

AS THE KILLER'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER, DR. STRANGE'S SPIRIT SELF, IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS VILLAGE DWELLING-PLACE, PREPARES TO ATTACK THE EVIL ILLUSIONIST...
MY CAPE WILL SNAP THESE POWER LINES -- THEN THE ADVANTAGE WILL BE MINE, NOT MY ENEMY'S!
FZZT


WHILE, ON THE FLOOR ABOVE...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHT? WAIT! SOMEONE APPROACHES -- ANOTHER MEDDLER?

THEN THE DIM LIGHT FROM THE STREET BELOW REVEALS A SILHOUETTED FIGURE...
DOES MR. RASPUTIN HAVE VISITORS? COME, SHOW YOURSELF, MY FRIEND!
BY THE FLAMES OF THE FALTINE! DR. STRANGE!

YOU TROUBLESOME FOOL! I HAVE BEEN BOTHERED ENOUGH BY YOU -- THIS TIME YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE WITH A MERE WOUND!
AH -- MY EMPTY CAPE DRAWS HIS FIRE, JUST AS I'D HOPED!
KRAK!
KRAK!

YOU HAVE INTERFERED IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR BETTERS FOR THE LAST TIME -- WHA --!? THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
NOW, WHILE HE IS OFF-GUARD -- SEIZE HIM!

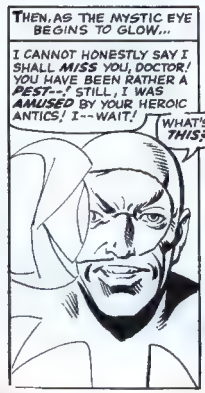
OBEYING DR. STRANGE'S MENTAL COMMAND, THE CLOAK ATTACKS LIKE A LIVING THING...
IT'S A TRICK! CAN DR. STRANGE STRIKE FROM BEYOND DEATH?
IT MUST DISARM HIM QUICKLY, BEFORE HE RECOVERS!

NO! NOW I UNDERSTAND--YOU ARE HERE IN SPIRIT FORM! I CAN DEAL WITH SPIRIT BODIES, MY DEAR DOCTOR! ONE SPELL TO NEUTRALIZE YOUR FOOLISH CAPE...
...AND ANOTHER TO MAKE YOU VISIBLE!

SO, THERE YOU ARE! MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE--FOR YOU ARE GOING ON A JOURNEY--INTO THE NETHER DIMENSION!
ONCE THERE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REJOIN YOUR PHYSICAL SELF--AND I SHALL BE FREE OF YOU--FOREVER!
HE'S DOING IT--FORCING ME INTO LIMBO--MUST HANG ON!

EVEN AS DR. STRANGE'S ETHEREAL BODY IS BATTERED BY HIS FOE'S POWER, A PLAN FORMS IN HIS ALERT MIND...
ONE CHANCE--! HIS MAGIC IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE CLOAK AND MYSELF! HE HAS NO DEFENCES LEFT--IF I CAN WILL THE MYSTIC EYE TO CAST A HYPNOTIC SPELL OVER HIM, HE MAY SUCCUMB!

DO NOT STRUGGLE, DOCTOR! BE MERCIFUL TO YOURSELF --RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!
HE'S SO ENGROSSED IN TAUNTING ME THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN THE EYE! IF I CAN ONLY HOLD HIS ATTENTION A FEW SECONDS LONGER!


THEN, AS THE MYSTIC EYE BEGINS TO GLOW...
I CANNOT HONESTLY SAY I SHALL MISS YOU, DOCTOR! YOU HAVE BEEN RATHER A PEST--! STILL, I WAS AMUSED BY YOUR HEROIC ANTICS! I--WAIT!
WHAT'S THIS?

A LARGE, FLOATING EYE--FOCUSING AN UNWAVERING BEAM ON ME!
I'M SUDDENLY... CONFUSED!... I CANNOT CONCENTRATE...

THERE IS AN ODD FEELING INSIDE MY SKULL... NUMB... COLD!

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

YET, WITH A WILL EQUAL TO THAT OF HIS INFAMOUS ANCESTOR, MR. RASPUTIN STRIKES BACK!

DID YOU THINK THAT YOUR HYPNOTIC EYE WOULD DEFEAT A MASTER OF HYPNOSIS? YOU HAVE FINALLY EXHAUSTED MY BENEVOLENCE!

HE RESISTED THE MYSTIC EYE--AND I AM VANISHING INTO THE NETHER DIMENSION! YET, THERE IS ONE FINAL CHANCE--!

CLOAK--ATTACK!

A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...

UHHH--! I WAS MUDDLED BY THAT ACCURSED EYE--AND LOST CONTROL OVER THE CLOAK! IT HAS ENSHROUDED ME!

YOU FIGHT WITH A FULL BAG OF TRICKS, STRANGE! BUT I WON'T RELINQUISH VICTORY NOW! I WON'T!

BY SHEER STRENGTH, I SHALL FREE MYSELF FROM YOUR ACCURSED GARMENT!

DESPERATELY, DR. STRANGE STRUGGLES TO MAINTAIN MENTAL CONTACT WITH THE EARTHLY DIMENSION!

I MUST FOCUS ALL MY WILL POWER ON THE CLOAK... FOR, SHOULD HE ESCAPE ITS SILKEN EMBRACE, I AM LOST!

THE MYSTIC MASTER'S DETERMINATION TO VANQUISH HIS FOE BRIDGES THE VAST PSYCHIC GULF BETWEEN THE TWO STATES OF EXISTENCE...

NO--I SHALL NOT BE DEFEATED! HISTORY MUST NOT BE DEPRIVED OF RASPUTIN'S RULE!

BUT...IT IS NO USE MY ONLY HOPE IS TO STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH MY IMPLACABLE FOE!

RELEASE ME, MAGICIAN, AND YOU WILL RULE WITH ME--YOUR NAME WILL BE REVERED WITH MINE!

BUT, RASPUTIN'S PLEAS ARE ANSWERED ONLY BY--SILENCE!

SPEAK!! CANNOT YOU SEE? IT IS MY DESTINY TO RULE! I--UNNHH--!

AT LAST, HE IS UNCONSCIOUS!

FREED OF THE EVIL MAGICIAN'S SPELL, DR. STRANGE'S ETHEREAL FORM EMERGES INTO THE GLOOMY CHAMBER...

THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE! IT CAN BE FATAL TO LEAVE MY PHYSICAL BODY UNPROTECTED FOR SO LONG A TIME!

I'LL TAKE RASPUTIN WITH ME! LEFT ALONE, HE MIGHT DEVISE AN ESCAPE!

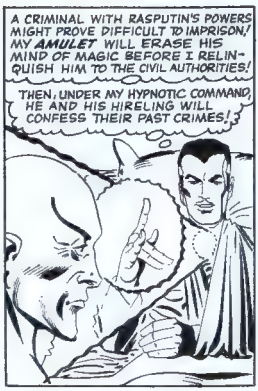
THE TWO CONJURERS SKIM SILENTLY ACROSS THE CITY'S ROOF TOPS...

WITH RASPUTIN SENSELESS, I CAN RETURN TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE MY PHYSICAL BODY LIES...

BUT, IN THE SICKROOM, A SURPRISE AWAITS THE DISEMBODIED SORCERER...
BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! IS THIS ANOTHER ENEMY?
HE MUST BE RASPUTIN'S HENCHMAN! BUT THERE IS NO DANGER--HE IS IMMOBILIZED BY THE EMANATIONS FROM THE AMULET BENEATH MY MYSTICAL GARMENTS!

THE JEWEL REACTED AUTOMATICALLY TO HIS MURDEROUS THOUGHTS, AND FROZE HIS CONSCIOUSNESS IN A MYSTIC BEAM!
WHEN I AWAKEN HIM, HE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO MY OWN WILL... TO MY OWN MENTAL COMMANDS!

NOW THAT THEY ARE BOTH OVERCOME, I CAN INTEGRATE MY TWO FORMS! THEN, THERE IS ONE MORE TASK TO PERFORM BEFORE I MAY REST IN SAFETY!


A CRIMINAL WITH RASPUTIN'S POWERS MIGHT PROVE DIFFICULT TO IMPRISON! MY AMULET WILL ERASE HIS MIND OF MAGIC BEFORE I RELINQUISH HIM TO THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES!
THEN, UNDER MY HYPNOTIC COMMAND, HE AND HIS HIRELING WILL CONFESS THEIR PAST CRIMES!

TIME FOR YOUR MEDICINE, DR. STRANGE! YOUR VISITORS WILL HAVE TO LEAVE... ARE THEY FEELING WELL?
THEY WILL BE FINE, ONCE THEY SEE A POLICE OFFICER! WILL YOU SUMMON ONE, PLEASE?

THEN, AFTER THE TWO DOCILE PRISONERS ARE REMOVED...
I SWEAR, DOC, THAT WAS AS MIXED-UP A PAIR OF HOODS AS I EVER SAW! THEY WERE CONFESSING TO ENOUGH CRIMES TO KEEP 'EM LOCKED UP FROM NOW TILL DOOMSDAY!
THAT'S SPLENDID, OFFICER! NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, THIS PATIENT MUST GET SOME SLEEP!
YES, I AM QUITE WEARY!
PD

THERE ARE NO COMPLICATIONS FROM YOUR WOUND, DR. STRANGE! WE'LL RELEASE YOU IN THE MORNING!
SURE, SURE! TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! I DON'T MEAN TO EXCITE YOU...
NO HURRY! I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE IT HERE! I NEEDED A GOOD REST ANYWAY!

AND, SO IT IS THAT AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD SLUMBERS, UNAWARE OF THE MENACE IT HAS SO NARROWLY ESCAPED...
NEXT WEEK:--
DORMAMMU VS. ETERNITY!
MORE THAN 'NUFF SAID!

NEWS FROM THE FLOOR OF 64

64, LONG ACRE,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

NOW, NORMALLY we don't use this editorial section for printing readers' letters, right ? But here's a screed, posted to FANTASTIC, which we think *every* Powerhouser should read (as well as those misguided ones who are *not* yet Power readers). It's from Miss H. L. Parry of Cards., S. Wales . . . and we quote : Dear Alf and Bart, Although I can no longer call myself a kid, I find I am taking up comics again—namely FANTASTIC, TERRIFIC, etc.—for the first time since I left school, a few years ago. I am truly sincere when I say that after reading the depressing sensationalism of our daily newspapers, I find that I can turn to such comics as yours for reassurance that GOOD can still overcome EVIL. Perhaps if everyone was made to read FANTASTIC the world might learn the error of its ways and crime and wars might decrease as each person came to learn the virtue of being " a good guy . . ." We *could* write a few words of our own to wind up Reader Parry's letter, but it wouldn't really add anything to what she has said. So we'll just shout from the rooftops . . . WE THINK SO, TOO ! Nuff said ! !

OUTSIDE of Royalty and art genius Jack Kirby there are few people who can legitimately call themselves KING ! But now BIG BOLD BART can (and we have the notion he isn't going to let us forget it, either). The full title recently bestowed upon His Garret Majesty is KING ONEHOLER ! S'fact. What does it mean ? Well, it's all to do with some pastime called GOLF ! And if any golfer manages to hole-in-one *more than once* . . . he is then entitled to be called as we have said, KING ONEHOLER ! Well, determined not to be outdone some members of the gang snuk on to a nearby golf course one midnight and had a go themselves ! Their report ? THERE MUST BE *EASIER* WAYS TO GET A CROWN !

PUZZLE ! How can IRON MAN fight HIMSELF ? No it's not just a question of tussling with his conscience or anything DEEP like that ! It's a straight, genuine, clobbering fact ! THE ANSWER? It's right there, in a saga called ' When Titans Clash,' in FANTASTIC, this week ! ! What'll they think of next ! !

MEET TWENTY PROUD POWER-PACK PEOPLE . . .

Graham Harris, Edgware, Middlesex ; Andrew Hayman, Leicester ; Philip Harris, Montgomeryshire, Wales ; Andrew McGill, Ayrshire, Scotland ; Simon Middleton, Hampstead, London, N.W.3 ; John Lee, Thornton, Lancashire ; Philip Crabtree, Bradford, Yorkshire ; F. Lyons, Dover, Kent ; BettyAnn Ellis, Wickford, Essex ; Hal Crompton, Bury, Lancashire ; Jim Quigley, Glasgow, Scotland ; Renee Folkard, Palmers Green, London, N.13 ; Steven Line, Kingsley, Northamptonshire ; Yvonne Biller, Ilford, Essex ; Susan Drake, Bath, Somerset ; Julia Snelling, Manchester ; Howard Robinson, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21 ; Lois Carpenter, Cockfosters, Herts ; Ricky Stroud, Waltham Cross, Herts ; Simon Jones, Godalming, Surrey.

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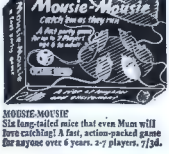

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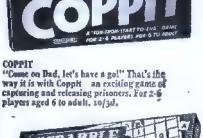

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DON STARR HAS AN...
APPOINTMENT WITH FEAR!
DO YOU BELIEVE IN GHOSTS? OF COURSE YOU DON'T! BUT SOMETIMES THINGS HAPPEN! MIND-SCREAMING THINGS THAT HIDEOUSLY DEFY THE LAWS OF REASON! THESE ARE THE SORT OF HAPPENINGS THAT DON STARR IS INVESTIGATING AT BRATHBY HALL! DON SUSPECTS PETER RAWLINGS, AND AS DON TURNS TOWARDS HIS ROOM...

THE HEAVY CLUB WOULD HAVE CRUSHED DON'S SKULL — BUT RAWLINGS MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO STRIKE...
HEY! WHAT—WHAT IS IT?

YE GODS! IT'S THAT GHOST AGAIN!
I'M WITH YOU, RAWLINGS! WE'LL TACKLE IT TOGETHER!

DON SPRINTS TO THE CORNER...
HE'S GONE! RAWLINGS—AND THE GHOST—HAVE VANISHED!
NOW STOP AND THINK, STARR! A GROWN MAN CAN'T SIMPLY DISAPPEAR! THERE MUST BE A SECRET PANEL OR DOOR!

A FIVE MINUTE SEARCH REVEALS NOTHING...
I CAN'T SPEND ANY MORE TIME LOOKING NOW. I MUST WARN FORSTER AND FLAXMANN ABOUT RAWLINGS' DISAPPEARANCE.

BUT DON HAS NO CHANCE TO WARN ANYONE! THE GHOSTLY FIGURE OF "COLONEL LAWTON" STRIKES ONCE AND DON FALLS. THEN...

WHEN THEY FIND STARR'S DEAD BODY ON THE STONE FLOOR IT WILL BE ASSUMED HE FELL THROUGH THE BROKEN RAIL! SO DIE, STARR!

STOP!

PUT DON STARR DOWN OR I SHOOT! I'M NO EXPERT BUT I DON'T THINK EVEN I CAN MISS AT THIS SHORT RANGE. YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS— ONE!

THINK YOU THAT A PUNY PISTOL CAN FRIGHTEN COLONEL LAWTON, MASTER OF THIS HOUSE FOR 300 YEARS?

TWO— THREE—

JANE, HE MEANS IT! HE'S GOING TO THROW STARR OVER!

BLAM

BUT INSTEAD OF HURLING DON TO HIS DEATH, THE GHOST USES HIM AS A BATTERING RAM...

TAKE HIM THEN! AND LET ALL DISBELIEVERS KNOW THAT COLONEL LAWTON SPARED HIS LIFE. NEXT TIME I MAY NOT BE SO GENEROUS!

FORSTER SOON RECOVERS AND GIVES CHASE. BUT IN VAIN...

IT'S NO USE, JANE! HE JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! I FOLLOWED HIM TO THE LIBRARY—BUT WHEN I WENT IN, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF HIM! HOW'S STARR?

HE'S JUST COMING ROUND. I DON'T THINK HE'S HURT BADLY!

YES I AM! IF YOU DARE TO REMOVE YOUR HAND FROM MY FOREHEAD I SHALL ALMOST CERTAINLY DIE!

JANE AND FORSTER EXPLAIN TO THE STILL BEMUSED DON WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

JANE HEARD A NOISE AND CAME TO FETCH ME. WHEN WE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE THE GHOST WAS JUST GOING TO HEAVE YOU OVER THE RAIL!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND! I FIRED TWO BULLETS RIGHT INTO HIS CHEST! I COULDN'T HAVE MISSED—YET IT HAD NO EFFECT WHATSOEVER!

OF COURSE NOT! I TOLD YOU IT WAS A REAL GHOST ALL ALONG!

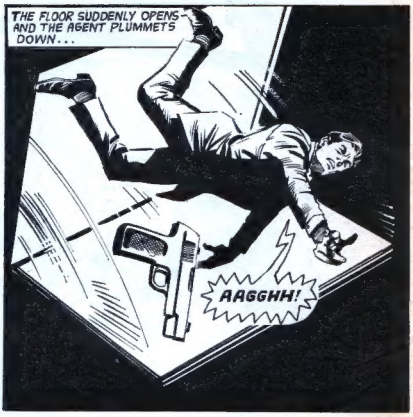
RUBBISH! IT WAS NO GHOST WHO LAID ME OUT! AND IT WAS NO GHOST THAT MADE PETER RAWLINGS VANISH!

PETER VANISHED! WHERE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HIM? WE MUST FIND HIM AT ONCE!

THE ANGUISH IN JANE'S VOICE SETTLES SOMETHING DON HAD BEEN WONDERING ABOUT...
SHE REALLY LOVES THE GUY! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THOSE BIG BLUE EYES WEREN'T SHINING FOR ME!
DON'T WORRY, JANE! I'LL FIND HIM! YOU AND FORSTER STAY TOGETHER—AND HANG ON TO THAT GUN! I'LL WAKE FLAXMANN AND WE'LL MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH!

BUT DON DECIDES TO MAKE THE SEARCH ON HIS OWN...
FLAXMANN'S TOO OLD AND SCARED TO BE OF ANY HELP. HE'D ONLY GET IN THE WAY IF I DID FIND— HEY! THE WALL'S OPENING UP!

STARR STEPS CAUTIOUSLY INTO THE ROOM BEHIND THE SECRET PANEL...
I FEEL LIKE ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS IN DOUBLE YOUR MONEY! ANY MOMENT NOW HUGHIE GREEN WILL— AGGHHH!!


THE FLOOR SUDDENLY OPENS— AND THE AGENT PLUMMETS DOWN...
AAGGHH!

UNTIL HE COMES TO A SUDDEN STOP...
I CAN'T MOVE! I'M TRAPPED IN A NET OF SOME SORT—IT'S—A SPIDER'S WEB!

THEN—FROM ONE CORNER OF THE GREAT WEB A HUGE SPIDER ADVANCES RELENTLESSLY ON THE HELPLESS STARR...
HERE COMES THE LANDLORD! HE'S A SOUTH AMERICAN KILLER SPECIES! ONE BITE FROM THAT AND I'M A DEAD 'UN!
STARR IS STILL IN THE HOT SEAT NEXT WEEK! WE DARE YOU TO WATCH HIM!!

BOYS! CAPTURE THE REAL WILD WEST

with ACTION *You want the real McCoy! These are the toys that give it to you! Authentic! Realistic! Complete with all the traditional equipment and weapons!*

ACTION HEROES OF THE WEST

JOHNNY WEST

Straight out of the world of the cattle-ranch and the rodeo comes this 11½" tall movable model cowboy. Takes up any action pose you want, sits, kneels, rides, holds a weapon. JOHNNY WEST comes with full range kit of clothing and cooking utensils, strong-box, branding irons, knife, rifle, .45, belt and holster. *A real adventure toy!*

PRICE 27/11d.

CHIEF CHEROKEE

Magnificent Red Indian model, standing 11½" tall and fully movable. Over 30 accessories including full tribal ceremonial kit and an assortment of true-to-life Indian weapons.

PRICE 27/11d.

THUNDERBOLT

Superb palamino range horse, beautifully modelled and ready for use with JOHNNY WEST or the CHIEF. *AND* you get all his harness – saddle and saddle blanket, rifle boot and saddle-bags.

PRICE 27/11d.

JOHNNY WEST JEEP AND THUNDERBOLT HORSE TRAILER

Perfect model jeep for JOHNNY WEST to drive – with a horse-trailer exactly right for THUNDERBOLT. The Jeep is ideal for all kinds of play and the trailer, with its drop down rear, can be detached or attached exactly like the real thing.

PRICE 73/6d.

JOHNNY WEST JEEP

You can buy the Jeep without the trailer, if you want. It's a realistic replica, even down to the sturdy tyres.

PRICE 45/7d.

THEY'RE SPECIAL – THEY'RE SUPER – THEY'RE MARX

SEE THEM AT YOUR TOYSTORE TODAY!

A Power House PIN-UP
Mystery Girl *
* REMEMBER WE SHOWED HER BACK IN ISSUE 14. NEXT ISSUE WE WILL REVEAL HER NAME.
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